

Appropriations Committee Conservation and Development Subcommittee
Department of Economic and Community Development Work Session #2

March 10, 2022

1. Minority Business Relief Loan Fund (MBRLF)

a. Please breakout awards by municipality.

Please see “**MBRFL report by towns**,” attached.

b. Please breakout grants vs loans.

MBRLF Loans

of Loans: 115

Total amount: \$6,308,230

MBRLF/COVID-19 LOC Program

of Grants: 485

Total amount: \$4,986,984.00

All loans funded under this program were forgiven and classified as grants.

c. Please provide the number of staff at HEDCO.

HEDCO has 12 full-time employees.

d. Please provide performance analysis of this program (annual report details).

Attached, please find our recently released “**DECD FY 2021 Annual Report**,” which includes a detailed performance analysis of all of DECD’s programs, including an Economic Development Investment Analysis of all of the direct DECD financial assistance DECD provided over the last 10 years (2012-2021), beginning on page 21.

2. Arts/Humanities Metrics

a. Please provide once the metrics are finalized (per Liz Shapiro).

Elizabeth Shapiro, DECD’s Director of Arts, Preservation and Museums, is still working with her team and Connecticut Humanities to consolidate the data that has been collected for the committee’s consideration. We will follow up with the committee once this process is complete.

3. Community Investment Fund

a. Please provide summary of this initiative.

The enabling legislation for the Community Investment Fund (CIF) 2030 is Sec. 475 of [June Sp. Sess., Public Act No. 21-2](#). DECD is currently interviewing for the administrator position who will develop and oversee the application process for the new Community Investment Fund 2030 Board, which is within

DECD for administrative purposes only. The CIF 2030 Board will oversee \$175m in bonding funds each year for various economic development programs beginning on July 1, 2022.

Structure of CIF Board

- 21 members in total: 10 who are members or appointees of the legislature, and 11 who are members or appointees of the executive branch or other statewide elected officials (e.g., the state Attorney General)
- DECD acts as the administrator of the CIF

Powers and Duties of CIF Board

- The chief responsibility of the CIF Board is to recommend for the governor's approval two types of "eligible projects" which must "further consistent and systemic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved and marginalized communities...":
 - Any project providing economic or community development in a municipality, including Brownfield, affordable housing, infrastructure improvement, pedestrian safety or traffic improvements, clean energy or resiliency, and home and public facility rehabilitation (and all related costs)
 - Priority goes to municipalities that have implemented local hiring preferences or will leverage other funds; and to applicants that employ ex-offenders or individuals with disabilities; and to municipalities that have a letter of support from GA representative(s)
 - Any grant providing a revolving loan program or start-up funds to establish or small business
 - Interest rate may not vary from prevailing interest rate
 - Board must consider risk of default; impact on job creation or retention; impact on blighted properties; overall community impact

Process

- Board submits list of recommended eligible projects →
- Governor reviews and may recommend changes (in writing) →
- if approved, Governor presents allocation of bond funds at State Bond Commission hearing no more than 2 months after Board submission

Statutory Deadlines

- August 30, 2021 – all initial appointments made to CIF board
- January 1, 2022 – first meeting of CIF board
- July 1, 2022 – first funds for CIF become available (\$175M for FY 23)

You can watch the first meeting of the CIF Board, which was held on October 27, 2021, [here](#).